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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,609	08/07/2001	Peter Fuhrmann	DE 000120	1410
24737	7590	04/29/2005	EXAMINER	
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510			SHAH, CHIRAG G	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2664	

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/923,609	FUHRMANN ET AL. 	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chirag G Shah	2664	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/7/01</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1. A Response To Notice To File Missing Parts of Application was received on 1/9/02, however the enclosed Declaration properly signed by the Applicants is missing. Please resubmit the Declaration properly signed by the Applicants and referring to the case by its Serial Number and filing date, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.63.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification fails to disclose section headings, including Background, Summary of the Invention, Brief Description of the Drawings, and Detailed Description of the Invention. Appropriate correction is required.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables

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having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or

REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a).

"Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)

(e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

(1) Field of the Invention.

(2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

(f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

(g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

(h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.

(i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).

(j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).

(k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because 3 lines (approximately line 10) after the abstract is completed, "Fig. 2" is inappropriately written and needs to be removed.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to because Figs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10 lack a descriptive legend. The boxes in the respective figures do not include a descriptive legend to clearly identify the element. Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Delcoco et al. (Patent No. 5,127,067), hereinafter referred as Delcoco.

Regarding claim 1, a network [as disclosed in **Fig. 2, four node star coupled LAN**] comprising

a plurality of network nodes [as disclosed in **Fig. 2, nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d**] and one star node [**Fig. 2, star node 20**], which

star node [**Fig. 2, star node 20**] is provided from the direct coupling of at least two network nodes [as disclosed in **Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 53-57, a star coupler 20 is directed coupled to corresponding four nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d**], and includes

a plurality of star interfaces [as in **fig. 2, interfaces receivers 22a-d and transmitters 24a-d**] which are assigned to at least one network node [as disclosed in **Fig. 2 and in col. 3, lines 53-58, a star coupler node 20 includes receivers 22 and transmitters 24, which form an interface for the corresponding node 12.**

Establishing that interfaces 22a, 24a are assigned to network node 12a as in **fig. 2**] and which

include each an activity detector [**interface means providing line status signal indicating activity, col. 2, lines 24-29**] for detecting activities in the message signal coming from the assigned network [**activity on corresponding optical transmission line associated with a node, col. 2, lines 24-29, fig.2**] node

[as disclosed in col. 2, lines 19-33, the star node includes a plurality of interface means, for interfacing with the optical transmission lines, the interface means provides a line status signal indicating activity on the corresponding optical transmission line] and

for transferring the message signal from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces or from another star interface to the assigned network node in dependence on at least one activity [as disclosed in col. 2, lines 20-42 and claim 1, upon receiving a line status signal indicating activity from corresponding transmission line and the transmission data, the star node having a switching means (multiplexer implemented using NOR gates for switching/transferring the data to the destination node) for switching transmission data from each of the interface means to any one of the interface (destination) means, switching being dependent upon a ring protocol].

Regarding claim 8, a star node [Fig. 2, star node 20] in a network [as disclosed in Fig. 1, four node star coupled LAN] comprising

a plurality of network nodes [as disclosed in Fig. 2, nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d], which

star node [Fig. 2, star node 20] is arranged for providing a direct coupling of at least two network nodes [as disclosed in Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 53-57, a star coupler 20 is directed coupled to corresponding four nodes 12a,12b,12c and 12d], and includes

a plurality of star interfaces [as in fig. 2, interfaces receivers 22a-d and transmitters 24a-d] which are assigned to at least one network node [as disclosed in

Fig. 2 and in col. 3, lines 53-58, a star coupler node 20 includes receivers 22 and transmitters 24, which form an interface for the corresponding node 12.

Establishing that interfaces 22a, 24a are assigned to network node 12a as in fig. 2] and which

include each an activity detector [interface means providing line status signal indicating activity, col. 2, lines 24-29] for detecting activities in the message signal coming from the assigned network [indicating activity on corresponding optical transmission line associated with a node, col. 2, lines 24-29, fig.2] node [as disclosed in col. 2, lines 19-33, the star node includes a plurality of interface means, for interfacing with the optical transmission lines, the interface means provides a line status signal indicating activity on the corresponding optical transmission line] and

for transferring the message signal from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces or from another star interface to the assigned network node in dependence on at least one activity [as disclosed in col. 2, lines 20-42 and claim 1, upon receiving a line status signal indicating activity from corresponding transmission line and the transmission data, the star node having a switching means (multiplexer implemented using NOR gates for switching/transferring the data to the destination node) for switching transmission data from each of the interface means to any one of the interface (destination) means, switching being dependent upon a ring protocol].

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Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 2-7 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art fails to disclose that the activity detector of a star interface activates the first switching element and deactivates the second switching element when a message occurs from the assigned network node and deactivates the first switching element and activates the second switching element when a message occurs from another network node in combination with other limitations set forth in the respective claim.

Conclusion

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703)305-3988, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703)305-3988 (for informal or draft communications, please label "Proposed" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag G Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-3144. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:45 to 4:15, 2nd Friday off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

cgs
March 31, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chirag Shah', is written over the printed name.

Chirag Shah
AU 2664